

EI-848



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

April 1, 2004

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division



Mr. Troy Brady
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Brady:

I received your letter dated March 4, 2004, requesting comments regarding the Environmental Assessment, Finance Docket No. 34395, City of Peoria, Illinois, d/b/a Peoria Heights & Western Railroad Construction of Connecting Track Exemption, Peoria County, Illinois (EA). Rock Island District staff reviewed the information you provided and have the following comments:

a. Your document states that an EA is available, but does not tell how to obtain a copy of that EA. The information provided does not adequately address environmental impacts, nor does it give adequate location information to allow our real estate office to assess if Rock Island District Corps of Engineers (Corps) administered land is affected. We require additional details of your project before we can make a final real estate determination. Please submit additional information to the Rock Island District Corps real estate office when it is available.

b. Our regulatory office reviewed your proposal in September 2003. It was determined at that time that your project does not require a Department of the Army (DA) Section 404 permit. We made this determination because the proposed project does not indicate discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (including wetlands).

c. The Responsible Federal Agency should coordinate with Ms. Anne Haaker, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62704, to determine impacts to historic properties.

d. The Rock Island Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be contacted to determine if any federally listed endangered species are being impacted and, if so, how to avoid or minimize impacts. The Rock Island Field Office address is: 4469 - 48th Avenue Court, Rock Island, Illinois 61201. Mr. Rick Nelson is the Field Supervisor. You can reach him by calling 309/793-5800.

e. Not enough information is provided to determine if floodplain impacts are involved. If floodplains are affected, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency should be contacted to determine if the proposed project may impact areas designated as floodway. Mr. Ron Davis is the Illinois State Hazard Mitigation Officer. His address is: 1035 Outer Park, 2nd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62704. You can reach him by calling 217/782-8719.

No other concerns surfaced during our review. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposal. If you need more information, please call Mr. Randy Kraciun of our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/794-5174.

You may find additional information about the Corps' Rock Island District on our web site at <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil>. To find out about other Districts within the Corps, you may visit web site: <http://www.usace.army.mil/divdistmap.html>.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Barr
Chief, Economic and Environmental
Analysis Branch